



Net Caucus Lawmakers Form Wireless Group

By Robert MacMillan, Newsbytes
WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A.,
13 Feb 2002, 8:47 PM CST

The chairmen of the Congressional Internet Caucus today said that they have formed a wireless working group to examine policy issues surrounding wireless technology.



Rep. Robert Goodlatte, R-Va., speaking tonight at an Internet Caucus reception, said that Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., and Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., will chair the group.

Among the chief issues the group plans to examine, Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., told Newsbytes, is spectrum reform management, an issue to which the Bush administration has devoted significant funding in its fiscal year 2003 budget request.

Burns also said that ultrawideband (UWB) technology will receive some attention from the working group.

Among some of the other issues that the group plans to discuss soon are digital rights management and copyright law, Goodlatte said.

The high-tech industry in recent weeks also has been pressing Congress and the administration to review its spectrum management rules and policies.

Part of the problem facing wireless broadband services now, however, is lack of available spectrum, according to the Computer Systems Policy Project (CSPP).

"By 2004, more users will access the Internet using wireless devices than wired technologies," the group said. "But without policy changes, the U.S. mobile wireless industry will face a shortage of spectrum in the next three to five years..."

The CSPP, which includes members such as Intel Corp., Unisys Corp., Motorola, and NCR Corp., said that the federal government needs to create a National Spectrum Policy Management Group, and also must stimulate more research and development.

"To fully realize (broadband) potential, U.S. policymakers need to look beyond the current debate over deployment of first-generation broadband technology and set ambitious, long-term national goals for our telecommunications infrastructure's speed and mobility," the group said.

Reported by Newsbytes.com, <http://www.newsbytes.com> .

20:47 CST

(20020213/WIRES ONLINE, TELECOM, LEGAL, BUSINESS/WIRELESSNET/PHOTO)

© 2001 The Washington Post Company